

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
MECHANICSBURG
 (Cumberland Co.) — Sewing is an art, a skill that has been developed with patience and encouragement.

About 70 4-H'ers who took gold ribbons at county levels competed July 6 at the Capitol Region 4-H Fashion Revue. These included participants from Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, and York counties.

Time, effort, and hard work paid off for eight senior gold ribbon winners selected to advance to state competition to be held at Penn State 4-H Achievement Days, Aug. 1-3.

Although only eight are eligible to advance to state competition, Mary Ann Oyler, Franklin County family living agent, told participants, "You are all winners. You have gained skills to help you in the future."

They also have the outfits they made. From shorts and tops to evening gowns, the outfits demonstrated the individual styles and talents of the one who made them.

Winning that gold ribbon is the crowning achievement for years of practice. Jenny Hoover, Denver, is one of those. She started sewing at six years of age.

"My grandma made draperies and wedding gowns for others. She paid me a penny for every pocket I made to hold the weights at the bottom of the draperies."

At six years of age, that was an incentive to sew and she also learned to make doll clothes. Jenny's mother (Lois Hoover) and grandmother (Nancy Good) are volunteer 4-H sewing leaders.

Jenny joined 4-H and has won gold ribbons for the past six years. For this, her final year in competition, Jenny envisioned a simple but elegant dress.

Much to her mother's and grandmother's chagrin, Jenny waited until six days before competition to buy the fabric and sew her semi-fitted black polyester ankle-length dress.

"I'm a last-minute person. I work best under pressure," Jenny said. Her fully-lined dress with the bottom embroidered etched in a silver design and a back slit is evidence of her ability.

"It's really a simple design, and I thought I might not win this year," Jenny said.

Nonetheless the polyester jersey matte required careful attention to sewing machine tension so that the fabric lies flat. Jenny used three patterns and needed to adjust the shoulders and sleeves to fit her.

After state competition, Jenny will work on her most challenging and favorite project — her wedding gown. She is getting married in December.

Matthew Reichard, Franklin County, is another consistent winner. He tailored a herringbone-patterned wool jacket and a coordinating pair of corduroy slacks and a button-front shirt. The welt pockets were a bit difficult, but Matthew proved he could compete with the best seamstresses. Matthew, 14, was selected as one of the top 10 seamstresses in the state last year.

He said, "One of the reasons I participate in this (Fashion Revue) is because it's lots of fun and you get to meet tons of people. Last year I was the only boy among 57 girls (contestants) at state. You can't beat that!"

Matt credits his mom, Tonja Reichard, who is his 4-H leader, for giving him lots of good basic instruction in his beginning years that has enabled him to sew independently. The biggest problem Matt faces is claiming the use of the sewing machine. He has two sisters who also have 4-H sewing projects. He was the last one in the family to finish his project, which he estimates took 30-40 hours to complete.

Other senior gold ribbon winners include the following:

- Valerie Bomgardner, Lebanon, modeled a leopard print dress in a cotton and polyester blend featuring an empire waistline with gathered neckline. Valerie is a recent graduate of Annville-Cleona High School



Skill and patience earned gold ribbons and an opportunity to advance to state competition for these contestants at the Capitol Region Fashion Revue, which includes winners from seven counties. Front, from left, are Cara Hershey, Matthew Reichard, and Elizabeth Criswell. Back, from left, are Elizabeth Francis, Gwen Umbreit, Rachael Krall, Jenny Hoover, and Valerie Bomgardner.



Senior division blue ribbon winners, from left, are Barbara Reichard, Lindsay Shirk, Rebecca Light, Kristen Sanderson, Emily Walker, and Lindsey Fackler.

and the Lebanon County Career and Technology Center, where she was enrolled in culinary arts.

- Rachael Krall, Lebanon, sewed polyester pants topped with a tensile camisole, and sheer polyester crepe print top for those cool ocean breezes.

Since this was her last year of competition, Rachael said that wanted to create an outfit that was both fashionable and functional. The fitted camisole with spaghetti straps and the ruffled sleeves on the sheer top were a challenge.

- Lindsey Fackler, Dauphin, stitched a sundress with princess seams in a lightweight twill fabric that twinkled with metallic silver faux. Lindsey added a double row of top stitching around the neckline and hem by using silver metallic thread.

- Elizabeth Criswell, Lancaster, stitched tan capri pants in a

stretch denim and a cotton moss green shirt with three-quarter length sleeves. She stitched a shoulder bag in a coordinating fabric.

- Cara Hershey, Lancaster, stitched a three-piece outfit, which included a semi-fitted, zippered-front, fleece jacket over a cotton knit shirt. Her wide-legged pants featured front and side pockets. Difficult project required matching uneven plaids, fitting pants, inserting a fly zipper, and making a shirt without a pattern.

- Gwen Umbreit, Franklin County, president of the 4-H Thimble Gang, made a three-piece wool suit and cotton blouse. The fully-lined jacket with a shaped hem topped loose-

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These junior division gold ribbon winners are 13 years and under in age but skilled in sewing and modeling. From left are Kamarin Minnich, Kailey Troutman, Lora Wenger, Sara Oyler, Denise Hoke, and Katie McGinnis.



OMESTEAD NOTES